

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR MIKLOS KEDVES (1933-2003)



With great regret we received at the Paleontology Department of the Geology Faculty of the Complutense University at Madrid the news of the demise of Prof. Miklos Kedves, "Research Councillor" of the Botany Department of the "Josef Attila" University at Szeged (Hungary), city in which he was born on March 1933.

The decease took place the 6th of November 2003, a few days after leaving our Laboratory, where we were carrying on research work on Cretaceous materials, in the context of the research project "Determination of the biodiversity of Cretaceous floras in the Andean Range and the Southern Edge of the Guadarrama Sierra (Madrid)", funded by the Science and Education Ministry of Spain, within the framework of the Programme of Scientific Cooperation with Latin-America, in which he was taking part as a specialist in palynology, although the exact date and circumstances of his death were not known to us till July 2004.

His scientific career was wide and varied, including several fields and spreading out to many countries. He received his Master in Biology-Chemistry in 1955 and his PhD, with the mark of "*summa cum laude*", in 1958 from the University of Szeged, appointed Assistant Professor of Biology in 1963 and member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1974.

I met Prof. Miklos Kedves for the first time in 1986, with occasion of the IV Symposium on Palynology, held at Salamanca (Spain), to which I had submitted a paper on the finding of *Classopollis clasoides* (Pflug) Pocock and Jansonius in Upper Cretaceous levels of the Madrid province. The presence of microcones containing pollen forms was of great interest to him, and through talks held during the Symposium, we agreed on the forms and aspects that we believed should be followed to reach reliable results in Paleobotany.

Since 1989 we exchanged our publications without interruption, and we invited him several times to visit the beds of the Southern Edge of the Guadarrama Sierra. Reciprocally, we received several invitations from the Josef Attila University.

In 1989 Prof. Kedves took part in the II European Conference on Paleobotany organised by the Paleontology Department of the Complutense University at Madrid. Dr. Kedves opened the conference with the lecture "New trends in Micropaleontological researches". During his frequent visits at Madrid he delivered several lectures.

His research papers were published in many countries, his collaborations with scientists of Spain, France and Portugal being very strong.

Dr. Kedves published 474 papers on several fields, being outstanding those related to Ultrastructures, current Botany, Paleobotany and Palynology.

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Spanish Council for Scientific Research funded joint research projects and stays within the framework of the Bilateral Agreements between Spain and Hungary.

As a consequence of our collaboration a total of 8 papers were published in Spanish and Hungarian journals and some results of our joint research were submitted to several Symposia of the APLE (Spanish Speaking Palynologists Association).

Since 1991, until his decease, he was the editor of the journal "Plant Cell Biology and Development", of which 16 volumes were published. Several papers have been published there from members of the Paleobotany and Palynology research Unit of the Geology Faculty at Madrid (G. Almendros, C. Álvarez Ramis, T. Fernández Marrón, P. Clemente, P. Gómez Porter and N. Lamarti), and many of them counted with the collaboration of Dr. Kedves. Some joint research works on Cretaceous materials of the Southern Edge of the Guadarrama Sierra were stopped with his death, being unable of recovering some data and materials.

The close friendly relationship which joined us and his scientific generosity make his loss to be irreparable, although his memory remains indelible with us.

Concepción Álvarez Ramis